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the SEMI



connecting the campus
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ALL IN THE FAMILY

By Ted Cosse

With everything being thrown at parents and their children these days, staying connected in deep and meaningful ways can be a challenge. A study funded in part by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development showed that children in the U.S. between the ages of six and twelve spent less than 30 minutes a week talking to others in the household where the conversation was the primary focus of the interaction (in contrast to results from the same study showing six to twelve year olds watched an average of 12 hours of television per week). Another study showed that U.S. teenagers spend 21 hours watching television per week and only 35 minutes per week talking to their fathers. OK, you've probably heard these or similar statistics before, so I won't drone on any more about it. Instead, I'd like to share one way my wife and I have tried to address this challenge in our family.

But first, a little about my family. My wife (Pam) and I have been married 24 years. We have two children—Chadd (12) and Ruth (14). Prior to coming to Fuller we relocated often, including a six year stretch in Switzerland. While overseas I traveled extensively, including one year where I spent more than half the year on overnight business trips. Now that we're back in the states, I am a full time Fuller student and my wife has a full time job

outside the home. Needless to say, family time was and is a precious commodity.

Dinner Talk

About seven years ago, as a way of getting more out of our time together, we developed a tradition around mealtime. My wife and I committed that we would eat dinner together as a family whenever we were all in town. No staying at the office (or school) late and coming home after everyone else ate. No eating alone early

and rushing off to attend a school or church event. No pairing up. Dinner time would be a sacred family space that we would jealously and zealously guard.

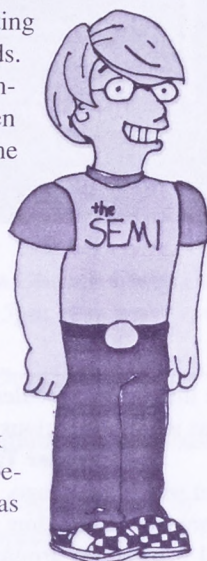
How is it working? Honoring the time commitment came easy for us with a little flexibility and com-

munication. More challenging was figuring out what to do with the time during dinner. When the kids were younger, it was easy—we'd play word games or guessing games of various sorts, which the kids (and parents) enjoyed immensely. But as the kids get older we have had to get more creative. Today, we use one of those small portable writing surfaces that can set on the dinner table. On it we write the dinner discussion topics for the evening. Anyone can submit a topic for discussion, provided they are willing to lead the discussion. Some of the more recent topics submitted by the kids have been: chores (why so many, and who decided), family vacation plans (we want more say in where, when, and if we go), and family discipline (our

Dinner time would be a sacred family space that we would jealously and zealously guard.

SEMI-RELEVANT

Juggling a family life and a seminary education is a daunting task. It can be taxing on the student, their spouse, and their kids. Especially considering that most students will have a job themselves, and their spouse will need to be a breadwinner. When my dad was in seminary, my sister was one, and mom had me on the way. They both had to work a lot, try to stay connected to each other, and keep active at a local church, while experiencing parenthood for the first time. My mom imparted some wisdom regarding this, telling of how there is never a perfect time to have kids, you will always have pressures and obligations, but your priority should always be to those you love. While all of us have a tidal wave of responsibilities ready to crash down upon us, we can take time for a real priority of a family time. I am so thankful that my parents took the time to form a meaningful relationship with me, and hopefully I can do the same; implementing the practices that Ted has suggested when I have some little ones of my own.



As it is now, though, my wife and I are both in school. So the main thing for us is to find special time to spend together. As I visited the Village Café, I noted how great a place this would be to take my lady for some quiet conversation. It has an intimate appeal, as the staff is very personable, and seems to care about people, not potential customers—a welcome respite from cookie cutter coffee shops. Hopefully this summer we can all find time to spend forming real relationships with our immediate family, our Fuller family, and the family of God. I'm so glad I'm a part; let's join hands and sing.

Ben Cassil
SEMI Editor

We want to hear from you! If you would like to write for the SEMI or respond to something you've read, please contact us at:

COFFEE BY THE BOOKS

Information courtesy of *Coffee By the Books*, Edited by Ben Cassil

Everyone knows that Coffee By the Books is where all the cool kids hang out on the Pasadena Campus. But you might not have heard about the globally responsible practices that give CBB an extra dose of awesomeness.

Coffee By the Books brews organically shade grown beans from Fair Trade certified farms. This means that when you sip that delicious brew, you are supporting small family run coffee farms, instead of large corporations with endless middlemen. It also means that you are doing your part to reduce your environmental footprint. Fewer trees are cut down in shady farms, which provides shelter for wildlife. Also encouraging is the fact that there are no chemicals being put into the ground that are potentially harmful to the soil.

Another innovative thing that CBB is doing to promote good stewardship is serving their "to-go" beverages in 100% biodegradable and recyclable cups. These cups are unique in that they use a corn based liner that breaks down in months instead of decades, and



are transported using a carbon dioxide neutral means. Even the sleeves that CBB uses to protect your precious hands are ecologically friendly. Eco Sleeves use 66% less waste than traditional sleeves, and are the only sleeve that is environmentally certified. If you want to be really environmentally conscious, they give a 10 cent discount for bringing in a generic mug, and a whopping 25¢ discount when using a Fuller mug.

Perhaps the most striking effort that this coffee shop has taken is the donation of all their tips. In 2005 they donated \$3,625 to a multitude of charities including: World Vision, Unicef and Red Cross. In 2006 they donated \$4,355 to Save the Children, Habitat for Humanity, Avon Walk for Breast Cancer, and many others.

So the next time you visit Coffee By the Books, you can feel a buzz not only from the caffeine, but also from your assurance that you are doing a small act of Global Awareness. We should all be encouraged to scrutinize our lives in this manner, and find ways in which our stewardship can grow and improve.

the SEMI
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creating dialogue

Dean of Students
Managing Editor
Editor

Ruth Vuong
Carmen Valdés
Ben Cassil

semi-editor@dept.fuller.edu

Production Editor

Lisa Wiegel
Scott Arany

semi-production@dept.fuller.edu

Ads Coordinator

semi-ads@dept.fuller.edu

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Letters to the editor: The SEMI welcomes brief responses to articles and commentaries on issues relevant to the Fuller community. All submissions must include the author's name and contact information and are subject to editing.

Announcements: Notices may be submitted to semi-ads@dept.fuller.edu or dropped off at the SEMI Office on the 2nd floor of Kreyssler Hall above the Catalyst. They must be submitted by the deadlines printed below and not exceed 35 words.

Advertisements: Notices for events not directly sponsored by a Fuller department, office, or organization will be printed in the "Ads" section and charged per word. All requests should be made through the ads coordinator.

Submission
Welcome Week
Fall 1

Deadline
Aug 20
Sept 4

VILLAGE CAFÉ: COFFEE AND A HEAVING HELPING OF COMMUNITY

By Laura Rector

I'm from the South. I'm used to chitchatting in the grocery store with total strangers and hairdressers who want to know all about how your mama and your siblings are doing, and who ask, "How's that daddy of yours?" I'm used to a mechanic who has known me since I was a little girl, a town where even my first grade teacher celebrated my MDiv graduation, and neighbors who are there at births and deaths and major life events with casseroles, fried chicken, or "all manner" of scrumptious cakes.

It's a small wonder then that I love Village Café, a coffee bar located near the corner of Hill Ave and Washington Blvd, in an antique store called A Penny for Your Thoughts. Both businesses are family-run, owned separately by two sisters.

Village Café is something different from the institutionalized, cardboard cut-out coffee shops that saturate the Pasadena coffee market.

It feels like being in a Main Street shop in my hometown of Vine Grove, Kentucky. Millie Wheatley, owner of the coffee business, knows me by name. When I was looking for an apartment, she had suggestions. She's offered helpful advice about where to go hiking and what to do with out-of-town guests, and when she heard I had anemia, she refused to serve me coffee despite it being her business (coffee competes with iron absorption). Instead, she pulled out a health book and said, "Let's see what's good for you."

She knows my favorite drink by heart and will make it for me, whether it's on the menu that day or not. You can't get that kind of personal service at Starbucks, and after watching Millie the past few years, I've realized that it [Starbucks] is simply not for me. After just a few visits, she knows most of the customers who enter the shop and genuinely cares about their lives.

Millie's not from the South, but she could

rival even the most charming Southerner's claim to hospitality. Besides that, her shop is cozy. There's a small, but charming seating area in the front, and some nice tables outside on the sidewalk. There's also a back

patio room with comfy, old couches and free wireless internet access. The store is not over-crowded and doesn't have blaring music like Bean Town (another good coffee shop, but only my second favorite to Village Café). It's a good place to study.

The back patio room would also be a great place for Fuller groups to try gathering, taking a break from overdone McCormick and Schmick's meetings. The place is smaller than some local coffee shops, but it offers a lot for its size, being intimate and informal.

Village Café is the perfect place to fit a coffee break into a few hours of window shopping. Besides offering antiques, gift items, and even clothing at the store, there are numerous cute shopping places nearby, many of which help the environment by selling used items. Diane's Junk Box, one of the cheapest thrift stores I've found in town, is located just a few doors away. Ar-

chives, a used Christian bookstore known to have copies of Fuller's ECDs and textbooks, is just around the corner. There's a stained glass shop, other gift stores, and even a mystery bookstore nearby. After all that shopping, if you're hungry for lunch, Village Café serves pastries and sandwiches that are comparable to other coffee shops in town, being at most \$5.95 in price.

Prices for drinks are extremely reasonable, ranging from \$1.50 for a regular Illy coffee up to \$3.95 for a large, blended mocha. Popular menu choices include the Nutella (think chocolate and hazelnuts) and the Aztec Mocha. The shop also serves smoothies.

For those who drive, there's plenty of free parking in the back of the store's building. That's always a plus in Pasadena. (You can enter the parking lot from Washington Blvd, directly across the street from

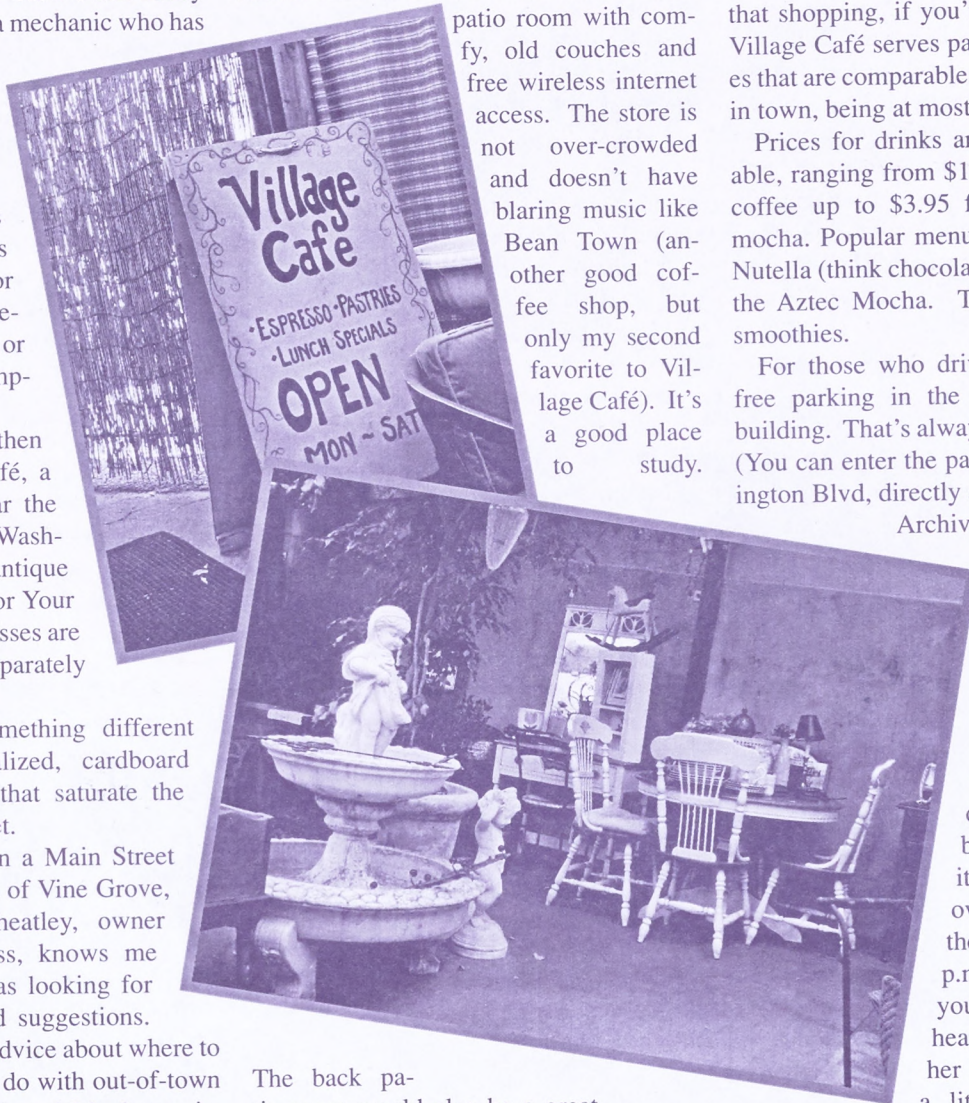
Archives, and go in through the back door.

The main door is on Hill Ave, across from Rite Aid). It's very close to several bus stops as well.

In the end, there is only one major drawback to Millie's business: Because it's family-run and not overly commercialized, the shop closes at 5:30 p.m. Go in the day and you can study to your heart's content on one of her loveseats, soaking up a little warm hospitality along the way.

For more information, call the Village Café/A Penny for Your Thoughts at 626-798-1631 or visit them at 1365 N Hill Ave. <http://pennyforyourthoughts.typepad.com>.

Laura Rector is finishing up her second-year in the CATS program. She's a bit sad about missing lightning bugs this summer, but compensates by going to the beach and hanging out with good friends.



BOOK REVIEW: HARRY POTTER By Britta K. Phillips

Warning: There are spoilers!!! Do NOT read unless you've either read the book or don't care if I spoil it.

I have been a fan of The Boy Who Lived for quite some time. I remember meeting him in 1999, on the front shelf of a children's bookstore I worked at for the summer. I took the first two books home, cracked them open and settled into another world. For a wannabee resident of both Narnia and Oz, this was not an entirely new experience. Ever since childhood, I have found myself transported by the written word to all sorts of places and times, both real and imagined. But something about Harry Potter stuck in my heart, even in those early days.

This is an odd thing, if you've read the first few books. Harry is a good and loving boy, but whenever he faces the ultimate evil of Lord Voldemort, he seems to survive by either pure chance or a force completely outside of himself. Other than being an exceptional athlete, he does not seem overtly remarkable. Even he thinks so. And yet, if you hang in with this child for a few years of his student career at Hogwarts, slowly he develops into a teacher, then a man, and then a hero, through and through.

Admittedly, as I finished the last book, I was awestruck by how my boy had grown up. It was breathtaking. Millions upon millions of children grew up with Harry, while millions more adults spent around a decade of their life with him. He is not merely a character in a book. He is a cross-cultural phenomenon, unparalleled in popularity in the literary world. But more importantly, he is our friend.

Harry and his author, Rowling, have of-

ten been attacked by Christian groups for promoting witchcraft and spiritually misleading children. It is nearly impossible to garner that reading from this last book. As I read, I found myself struck several times by the biblical quotes and allusions, the repeated use of prayer imagery, and especially by the primary plot: the sacrificial death of The Boy Who Lived, who gave himself willingly, and his subsequent resurrection into victory and peace. While I am a proponent of the notion that both authorship and readership serve to interpret and define a piece of literature, I am solidly reluctant to attach the term "Christian" to a piece of literature unless the author has specifically done so herself. The reason for this is that "Christian art" is still a pointed term in popular parlance, a body of work with an agenda (i.e., to push forward Christianity through evangelism or apologetics; to

spread a moral vision; to serve as an act of worship; etc.), and Rowling is certainly not a woman with a Christian agenda. This being said, it remains difficult to ignore the Judeo-Christian aspects of The Deathly Hallows. They are unmistakable, and it might have something to do with Rowling's true subject.

Überfans know what Rowling's self-declared subject is, but even those who hadn't heard before



by the end: she has chosen to write seven books about death. Not the usual fare for a children's series, but this exploration throughout the books is so profoundly needed in western culture that it seems to shake all expectations of children's literature off in order to plunge the depths of its subject. Rowling has written an epic about a child who becomes a man, friends who become family, heroes who become human and life which becomes death. The awkwardness of that last phrase, "life which becomes death," is no accident. Death is not taken lightly in this magic world, and nor is it reversible (usually, at least), but it is understood as a continuation of what we experience on this side of eternity. There is a comfort on the other side, the sense that something has caught the dead and will catch us. We will not fall. Salvation is not impossible, not even in our darkest days. And even though Rowling doesn't mention G-d, neither do Lewis or Tolkien. It is assumed by Christian readership, whether they know the literary aims of those authors or not, that their stories have something to do with our Gospel story. And guess what? They do. Harry's story is no exception.

Many years ago, I met an eleven-year-old boy with jet black hair, awkward glasses over his bright green eyes, and a lightning-shaped scar on his forehead. I walked with him through many years of school, encounters with the deepest kinds of evil, and many days of meaningful friendship with wonderful people. I sat with him as he lost his godfather, his mentor, and too many other beloved friends to count. I watched him grow into his calling, struggle with it, surrender to it, and explode through it to a life he never imagined. As I

went along this journey with him, I began to understand some things about myself and my world: that my early feebleness does not prohibit later heroism; that inaction is nearly as great an evil as intentional wickedness; that beauty and pain go hand in hand, and that it's okay that they do. When we walk through the fire, we will not be burned. The boy lives on, and we with him.

Britta K. Phillips finished HP7 by 8:46am on July 21, 2007. Yes, she is that obsessed. She is a nearly-finished MAT student who is writing her farewell SEMI article, as she is moving to Hartford, CT in a couple of weeks. Thank you for reading her stuff over the years. It's been lovely and grand. Be good to each other, Fuller. You need each other.



NEEDING TO PRAY?

While the Prayer Garden is closed during construction, you might feel frustrated or adrift looking for a quiet and safe sanctuary for prayer. Here are some suggested locations:

Pastoral Care Team Prayer Room

Location: Second floor of Kreyssler Hall (above the Catalyst)

Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Note the sign posted at the entrance.

All Saints Church sanctuary

Location: 132 North Euclid Ave. right next to Mick & Schmick's.

Hours: The sanctuary is open to the public Sunday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

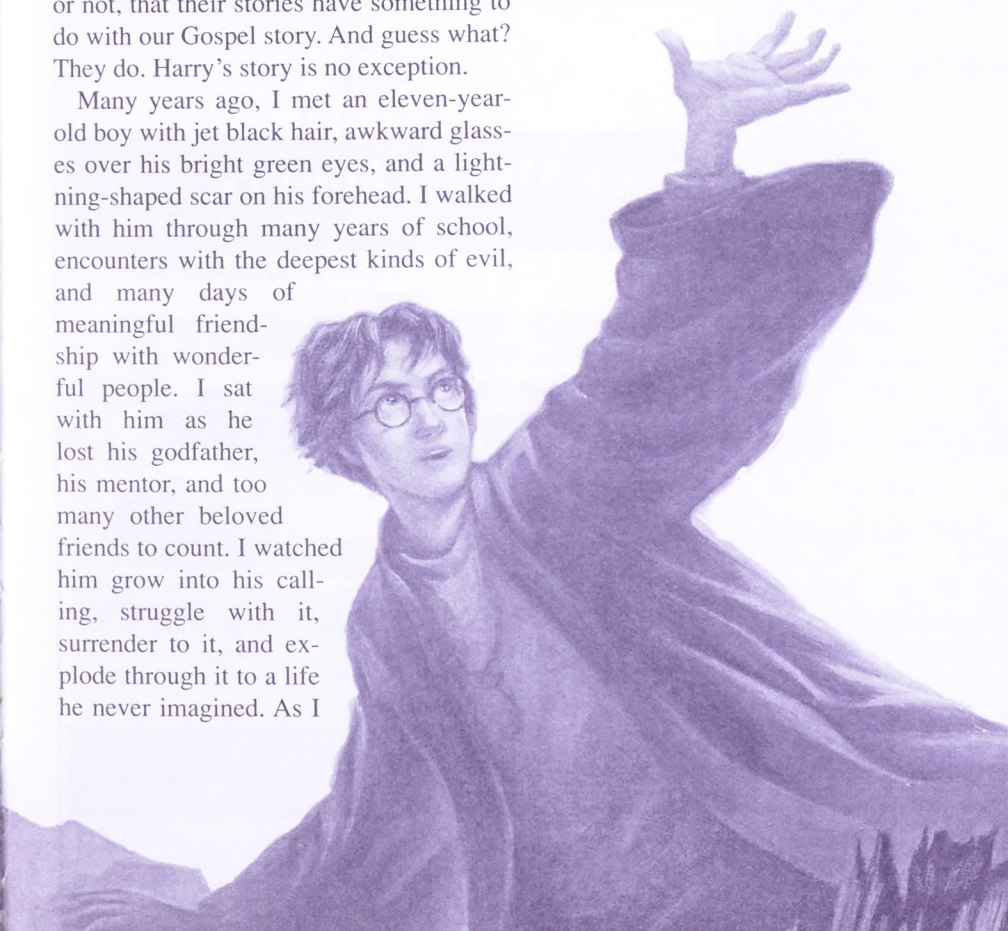
First United Methodist chapel

Location: 500 East Colorado Blvd.

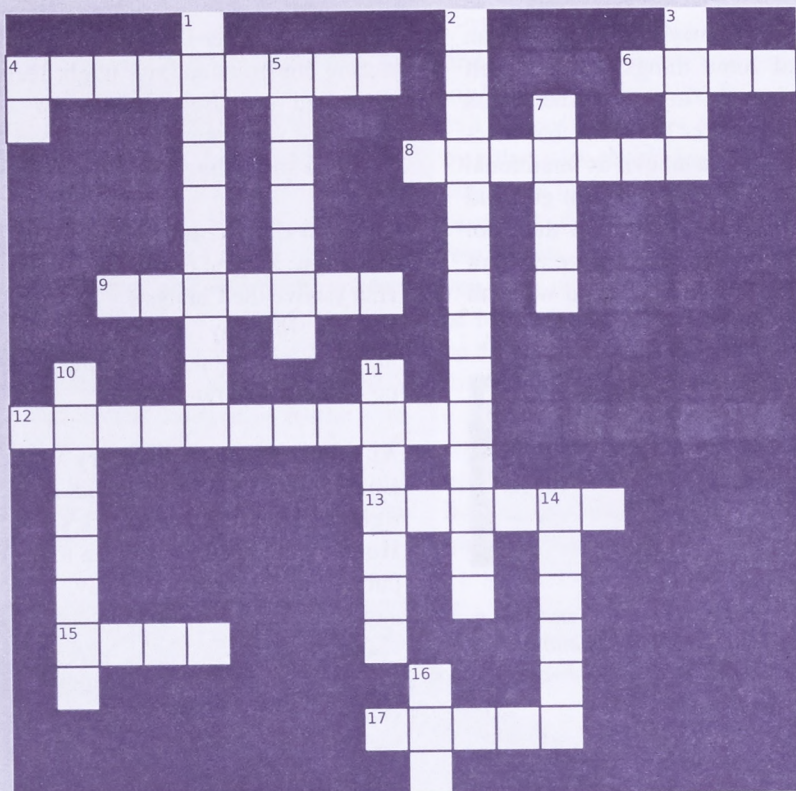
Hours: The chapel is open to the public Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Are you able to share and/or recommend any other prayer sanctuaries? Let us know and we'll post them in a future issue of the SEMI.

semi-editor@dept.fuller.edu



SUPER-DUPER CROSSWORD PUZZLE OF DOOM: FULLER TRIVIA EDITION



ACROSS

4. Hard-to-spell sport experiencing a revival on the Catalyst's lawn.
6. Fuller graduates had to don swimwear, because the ceremony was in _____.
8. It's not "either or" it's ____ (2 words).
9. Cheesy new campus pipeline name (so what if I'm bitter, I wanted an iPod).
12. Leo and Hanks unite for the Gnostic cause.
13. He was a "power lifter" back in the day, he is now an SOP professor.
15. SEMI is derived from the Greek word meaning this.
17. _____ is my homeboy.

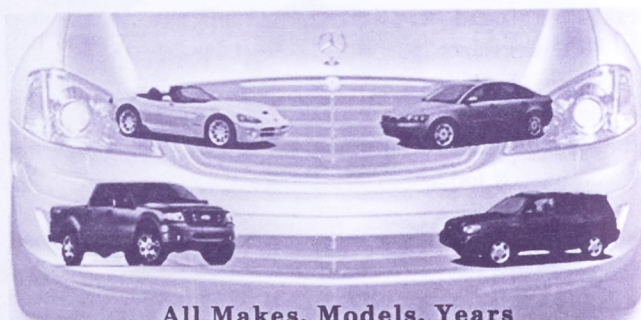
DOWN

1. Fuller Alum who's car is nicknamed "Life" and his chauffeur is named "Purpose."
2. Futuristic movie in which Colin Farrell's character attended Fuller.
3. Former Fuller professor who emphasized historic premillennialism, to the chagrin of dispensationalists.
4. He'll give you a lollipop in the library.
5. Another word for Deification.
7. Truncated form of Fuller's first name, also the original basketball shoe.
10. This sparks change, and it is also a good place to nap between classes.
11. Fuller Alum who wrote a book titled after expensive fabric and the king.
14. At ArtsFest, children and adults alike enjoyed free expression on the community _____.
16. Already/not _____ expresses the status of the kingdom.

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FAMILY Continued from page 1

friend's parents are not nearly as strict as you guys). My wife and I try to mix things up with our own topics, such as: What are you hearing from your friends about sex and drugs? What do you like most or dislike most about our family? One of the more revealing questions we recently discussed during dinner was, "What do you think our family's values are?" We had the kids answer this question by first having them reflect on how our family spent its money, time, and attention. I was surprised by how accurately they identified values my wife and I held that we had never made explicit to them.

A Surprising Reaction

How do our kids like all this dinner talk? At first it was a bit awkward, espe-



cially when they were asked to share their opinions on "dicey" subjects. And frankly, kids often prefer eating over talking. But it wasn't long before they started pro-actively submitting their own topics. Not every day of course, but when something really bothered them they tended to write it down on the board. Often the discussions would get so interesting that they would protest when I excused myself from the table. That's when I knew we had something special going.

As I think about why they came to enjoy this time together, three things come to mind: 1) they are intrigued by many of the topics (especially ones they are embarrassed about broaching on their own but are very curious about); 2) they get a kick out of asserting their opinions and having those opinions respected and listened to; and 3) though they won't admit it, they still have an interest in mom and dad's take on things.

Find Your Own Way

While what I've just described works well for my family, it may not work for yours. Generically prescribed intimacy is not what I'm advocating here. And I certainly don't want to imply that every dinner goes smoothly; sometimes they end in icy silence or hurt feelings. Also, as the kids get older and schedules get more hectic, protecting this sacred space has required even greater flexibility and creativity. Finally, these dinner discussions are not a substitute for one-on-one discussions between family members.

With all that said, we are committed to protecting this sacred family space, simply because we have been tremendously blessed by God through it. I pray that you will find ways to foster your own family intimacy in ways that work for you.

Ted Cosse is finishing up his first year in the Clinical Psychology doctoral program, which means he'll be here for another good four years. Have fun with that Ted.



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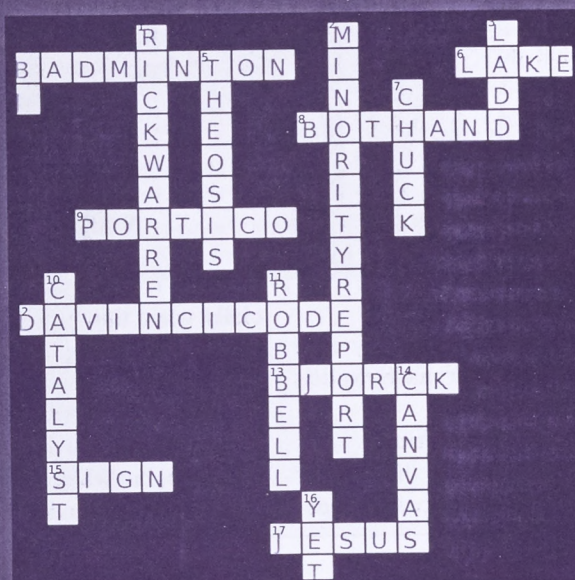
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Field Education Hospital and Hospice Internships Two-unit FE546 Hospital Chaplaincy internships are being offered at Huntington Hospital in Pasadena, Glendale Adventist in Glendale, and Providence St. Joseph's in Burbank during the Fall 2007 quarter. A two-unit FE548 Hospice Chaplaincy internship is being offered through VITAS Healthcare Corporation of California. These courses emphasize spiritual care training in a hospital or hospice setting. Students will learn how to be present to patients and/or their families during a crisis, as well as the preliminary steps in performing a spiritual care assessment. Before registering for either course, interns must be interviewed and accepted by the prospective hospital or hospice chaplain. Start the process early! Contact the

Office of Field Education at 626-584-5387 for application forms and contact information.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS (OF DOOOOOOM)



ADVERTISEMENTS

The Services section of the SEMI is for announcing services and events not offered by Fuller. Individuals are personally responsible for evaluating the quality and type of service before contracting or using it. The SEMI and Student Life and Services do not recommend or guarantee any of the services listed.

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Thinking of Buying or Selling a Home or other real estate? Call Fuller alumnus David Tomberlin at Sun Coast Real Estate at 590.1311.

Massage Therapy! Do you have a graduate to congratulate? Perhaps you have someone to THANK for supporting you through school? Giving the gift of massage is a tangible way to express your pride and appreciation. Massage also makes a great gift for yourself! Mention this ad for \$10 off. Susan Young, nationally certified massage therapist and part of the Fuller community. 660.6856

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